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1 - ER
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1 - CCG (Showers)
1 - IC/subject
1 - IC/chrono

3 APR 1972

The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence)
Room 3E 282
The Pentagon

Dear Al:

In reply to your call to me the other day on the subject of CIRIS, I have been looking into the situation, as I told you I would. I am satisfied that we have a need for a data base which contains the official figures for Defense intelligence activities as they are used by the Secretary and program managers in the review of programs and budgets. I also need these in terms of functions and targets to provide me insights into the intelligence community's programs along the general lines of CIRIS, but I am by no means committed to any particular form this might take. At the same time, we have now had a continual data base for about five years and I cannot, at this juncture, afford to have it lapse. Thus, without prejudice to later decisions as to format and content, I would appreciate your issuing a CIRIS data call now.

We have had a good deal of experience with CIRIS and are thus quite conscious of its shortcomings and for this reason have already put in quite a lot of time this year reviewing its form and applicability. This process is by no means finished. We have also been aware of your reservations and those of your staff and it was for this reason I believe it was suggested that you join Bronson's group in a review of the problem. It would be my suggestion that we study this matter together, with the aim of reaching a solution as fast as possible. I am perfectly prepared to put a small task force on it virtually full time immediately and with your participation I see no reason why we should not get the job finished in short order. I think there has been enough work done on this and enough past experience to make this a perfectly feasible project. If you agree, would you please call Bronson and make the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms